



August
2017

CORVINA BASE NEWS

Newsletter of the Year Awards

2014 Class 2 First Runner Up
2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner
2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention

The 150-year-old mystery of how the Hunley submarine crew died has been solved

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Denotes a Holland Club
Member



Our Creed



To perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country.

That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

These past few weeks you probably noticed that there was very little communication from the conn, or at least from me. I assure that our ever vigilant XO was at the helm and kept the Corvina on a steady course. In late July, DeDe and I embarked on our Baltic Odyssey that we had been planning for the last year or so. We booked passage with a small cruise ship line that sailed from Southampton, UK, and docked in Stockholm, Sweden, some 14 days later. Because neither of us had been to Europe before, we decided that we would spend a few extra days in London prior to departure and a few extra days in Stockholm. Trying to see the sights of London in 3 days is like trying to drink from a fire hose, too much too fast. We spent a full day at Buckingham Palace. The Queen was at her summer residence so the palace staterooms were open for tours, a rare opportunity. In many of the rooms official gifts from visiting dignitaries the world over were on display. We also toured the Mews, where the stables and Royal Coaches are housed and maintained, along with the Royal Vehicles. The Gold State Coach commands its own exhibit and is the show piece of the collection. It was built in 1762 and has been used in every coronation since that of George IV in 1821. Its surface is almost entirely covered with gold leaf. We also toured the Queen's Gallery where priceless works of some of Europe's masters are on display. We also devoted a day to visiting the Tower of London. Among the numerous exhibits are the Crown Jewels, worth the trip just to see those. Nearby, is Tower Bridge which is also a must see.



(Cont next page)



Do you think Steve is hinting
He wants something like this
For the Base Commander to
Ride in? Editor

Day three we were on a 3 hour train ride to Southampton and the ship. Once outside of London, the countryside is striking; beautiful farms and occasionally a glimpse of a castle. Our first night was spent at sea, docking in Bruges, Belgium the next morning. Our shore excursion took us to Ypres in Flanders Fields. The surrounding country is beautiful, the cemeteries were soulful, but what happened in the trenches in 1914-18 was horrendous. Entering the village of Ypres, you pass through the famous Menin Gate, a British War Memorial with the names of nearly 55,000 missing soldiers engraved on the walls. A striking similarity to our "Wall". The Flanders Fields Museum contained an exhibit highlighting the archaeology of the extensive system of trenches and the underground tunnels constructed during those 4 years of madness.

Our next port of call was Rotterdam, Holland, the largest cargo port in Europe and 10th in the world. We made a side trip to The Hague, the official seat of Dutch government and judicial capital of the UN. We toured the Mauritshuis Museum. Once the palace of Prince Johan Maurits, it now houses an extensive art collection including Vermeer's "Girl with the Pearl Earring". We spent the next day cruising the North Sea enroute to Aalborg, Denmark claimed to be "Europe's Happiest City". One of the nice surprises of the entire cruise was flat seas. Copenhagen was next on our itinerary where we enjoyed a canal boat ride through the historic city and by the iconic "Little Mermaid" statue welcoming visitors entering the harbor. We skirted an obvious naval facility where, in the distance, I saw the stark outline of a submarine hull. We never did get close enough for a good picture though. A visit to the Tivoli Gardens is also a must when in Copenhagen. Next up was Karlskrona, Sweden, a historic naval base and, I think, the most beautiful city in the Baltics. It is situated on Sweden's most southerly archipelago and is made up of 1,600 islands and skerries. If only I had my boat here and could spend a couple of years exploring! A tour of the old shipyard included centuries old drydocks (still in use), a boat shed large enough to construct 70 gun wooden warships completely undercover, and a 1,000 ft. long wooden building where ropes of all sizes were braided. Again, against a distant pier, I saw the sail of one of Sweden's operational submarines.

In the impressive Naval Museum, there is complete gallery devoted to Sweden's history with submarines. The exhibit includes the real submarines Neptun (Neptune) and Delfinen. The Neptune is of recent vintage (1980-1998) and was involved in the incident when the Soviet spy submarine U-137 went aground in 1981 near Karlskrona.

Next month, I will continue with our Baltic Odyssey, including some highlights of St. Petersburg and Stockholm.

Steve Salzman
Commander
Corvina Base



HSwMS Neptune



HSwMS Delfinen



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August Meeting Minutes



Our secretary took time out for the picnic

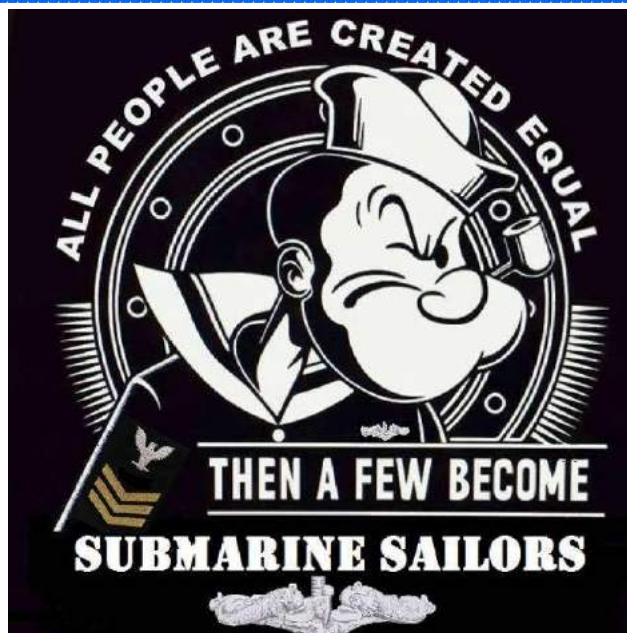
Treasure's Report



1. All account balances are available at the Base meetings.
2. Deposits for August:

August Picnic Raffle/Memorial Fund	\$193.00
August Garage Sale Proceeds	453.00
3. Checks issued in August:

Phila. Insurance Co-Liability Insurance(1yr)	\$ 475.00
Terry Bolen-Reimburse Aug Picnic Expenses	275.77





Chaplains Report

Eternal Patrol

Rudolph (Rudy) Massenzi: "Rudy" as he was known to his friends and fellow employees died suddenly on June 9, 2017 at the age of 76 at his residence in Reno, Nevada. He was alone and had called 911 but it was too late for them to help him. He was alone because his wife Eva of 46 years had passed away on August 3, 2016 after having been ill with dementia for 8 years. Rudy loved Eva and was determined to take care of her and did until toward the end of her illness which may have contributed to his health problems. Rudy was a native of Benicia, CA and joined the U. S. Navy in 1959 after graduating from Benicia High School and wanted to be a submarine sailor. He qualified on the USS Redfish (SS-395) in 1959 and chose to become a Torpedoman and rose to the rank of TM3(SS). Rudy also served on the USS Blueback (SS-581), now a museum sub in Portland, OR, and the USS Pampanito (SS-383) which is a museum sub in San Francisco, CA. After being discharged in 1964 he became a Police Officer for the city of Benicia, CA and then became a California Highway Patrolman from which he retired. Rudy had just joined the Corvino Base in February 2016 was excited about discovering USSVI and the Corvina Base. The Corvina Base will pay tribute to Rudy at our Annual Memorial Service in Fernley NV on Saturday August 2, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. which will be attended by a few members of his family. "Rest your oars Rudy, we've got the watch". Thank you for your patriotic service to the people of the United States of America.



WATCHING AND WAITING

By Jack Ely – about 1918
 I'm not very good at explaining
 'cause my lingo's only fair,
 But I've got a story I'd like to tell
 Of a guy who went over there

He was a lad who believed in doing
 The things that ought to be done,
 And though he fought for a Yankee outfit
 He was a reg'lar Irishman's son





In a rookie squad at Sherman
Where the gang was plugging away,
I met this lad from Erin
And made a friend that day

Did you ever try to find a guy
Who would give you all he had?
That's the kind of guy he was
This Yankee Irish lad

We weren't very long in training
When the order came to go,
Across the pond to action
In the land where poppies grow

Through mud, rain, and hardships
We marched it, side by side,
Till at last we hit the place
Where my pal, and comrade died



In a hole half-filled with water
One night 'midst the battles' glare,
He said, "Pal, we'll play it together
And I want to play it fair

I want you to know why I'm fightin',
Why I traveled across the sea,
T'was to see if I could do my bit
To make all countries free

It rained, it poured, and cannons roared
And like a shrieking blast from hell,
There came the crashing
of a monstrous long-range shell

I ducked my head to dodge the lead
And came up gasping for air,
When my hand came in contact
With a mass of clotted hair

"Well, Slim I guess they've got me
I won't be lasting long,
If you want to make me happy
Just hum an Irish song

And take the pictures from my aching breast
If the good Lord brings you through,
Please send them to my mother
And she'll always pray for you"

He's sleeping now in frog land
Where the poppies bloom so fair,
And he died for Irish freedom
In a mud hole over there



Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain





KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) TREAM MAKES TWO VISITS TO RENOWN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Corvina Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Team made two separate visits since the last Newsletter. The first visit was with Brennen, a great 13 year old from New Zealand who was in Reno visiting his Grandparents when he had a dirt bike accident. We spent about an hour with Brennen (our normal visit is about 20 minutes) because he asked such great questions and showed a lot of interest.

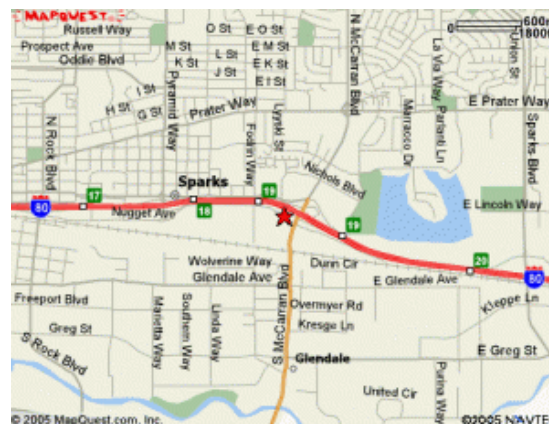
On the second trip we were scheduled to be covered by John Potter of Channel Two News, but were preempted at the last minute by coverage for President Trump's visit to Reno. We visited with two children, both 10 years old. Nicholas is a bright kid who showed a lot of interest, particularly in the weapons capability of submarines. Evelyn is a shy little girl who was very quiet at first, but lit up when we got to the goodies, particularly a stuffed Polar Bear.

All children were presented with age appropriate gifts as well as Caps and Certificates designating them as "Honorary Submariners". Team members Bill Conklin, Paul Young, Dennis Wiley, DeDe Salzman and Claudia Quarisa participated in the visits.



Corvina Base Kap(SS) 4Kid(SS) Booster Club

Paul Young
Terry Bolen
Bill Conklin
Pete Akerson
Jim Turner
Frank Urbani
Dennis Wiley
Dale Poe
Frank & Linda Ely
Ted Henson



*Meetings are held
on the first Saturday Of each month at
Denny's
Coffee Shop,
205 E. Nugget Ave. Sparks NV*

The Corvina Base News is published monthly for the use of the Corvina Base Members. Distribution is by E-mail along with 12 copies sent by the USPS.

Submission of articles must be received by the 25th of the month. Holland Club Members are denoted in the newsletter with the symbol: Each member will show up about every fourth month.

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Corvina Base Booster Club

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James Turner
Bobbie Heaps
Dave Aunkst
Paul Young
Ken Anderson
R.Dennis Wiley
Leif Larsen
Pete Akerson
George Little
Bill Desormier
Lon Schmidt
Dave Chute
Paul Allen
Michael Uva
Dan Moran
Frank Urbani
Ted Henson
Clyde Webber
Frank Ely

Boats lost in September

USS S-5 (SS-110) was lost on **1-Sep-1920** when it foundered off Delaware Capes 1Sept20 40 miles offshore. **All the crew escaped through a hole cut in hull in the tiller room.**

USS S-51 (SS-162) was lost on **25-Sep-1925** with the loss of **32 crew** when it was sunk after collision with *SS City of Rome* off Block Island

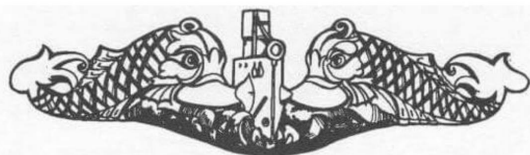
USS Pompano (SS-181) was lost on **1-Sep-1943** with the loss of **76 crew** when it was sunk off the northeast coast of Honshu

USS Grayling (SS-209) was lost on **9-Sep-1943** with the loss of **76 crew** when it was sunk in or near Tablas Strait, PI

USS Cisco (SS-290) was lost on **28-Sep-1943** with the loss of **76 crew** when it was sunk in Sulu Sea west of Mindinao

SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)	Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)
Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)	Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)
Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)	Robert Rich EN1 (SS)
Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)	Francis Signore CSC (SS)
Harold Lister EN3 (SS)	Stanley Blair ICC (SS)
James Avitt RM1 (SS)	Richard Burdette LT. (SS)
Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)	Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)
Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)	Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)
Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)	Melvin Schreckengost ET2
Norm Snyder EM1(SS)	Charles Hyman MM2(SS)
James T. Wright III	Gordon Lane RMC(SS)
Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)	Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)
Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)	Richard Ekenberg , ETC(SS)
Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)	Richard C. Barringer SOSN
(SS)	
Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)	Jack Quade SMSN(SS)
Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)	Walter Lewis IC1(SS)
Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS)	Bob Heaps IC2 (SS)
James Jordan TMSN (SS)	Rudolph (Rudy) Massenzi



The Submariner

Only a submariner realizes to what great extent an entire ship depends on him as an individual. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so!

A submarine at sea is a different world in herself, and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of submarines, the Navy must place responsibility and trust in the hands of those who take such ships to sea.

In each submarine there are men who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to each other. These men are ultimately responsible to themselves and each to the other for all aspects of operation of their submarine. They are the crew. They are the ship.

This is perhaps the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as a submariner that he can escape the grasp of responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small, nevertheless, it is the spur which has given the Navy its greatest mariners - the men of the Submarine Service.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the proud and time honored title of ... Submariner.

1961



Dave Craig
ETC (SS)
USS Croaker
SS-246

1964



Bill Conklin
MMCM(SS)
USS Barb
SS-596

1965



Dennis Costarakis
CDR
USS Bluegill
SS-242

1955



Richard Dentino
EM3 (SS)
USS Tigrone
SS-419

1963



Bill Desormier
SK3 (SS)
USS Plunger
SSN-595

1962



Gabriel Fretias
SK3 (SS)
USS Wahoo
SS-565



Corn from the COB

Bonnie's recipe for her fruit cobbler. Several members at the picnic wanted it.

1	Cup	Flour, scant
2	Cup	Sugar
/		
3		
1	tsp	Baking Powder
¼	tsp	Salt
1	Cup	Oil
/		
3		
1		Egg, unbeaten
1	tsp	Vanilla

To a pie plate of fruit add ½ Cup sugar mixed with 1 Tbl. Cornstarch or 1 ½ Tbl Minute Tapioca Granules.

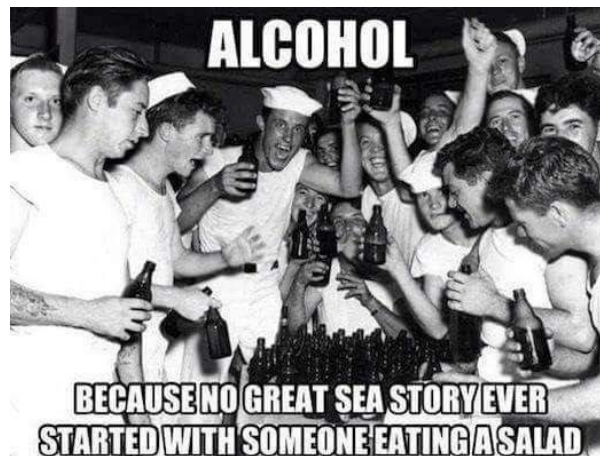
Sift flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add oil, egg and vanilla and mix with fork. The batter will grainy. Flatten spoon sized balls of the sticky batter between palms and place on fruit.

We have used peaches, blackberries and nectarines with this recipe and all work equally well. Others will probably work as well. In a standard size pie plate we typically use 4 medium to large sized peaches. You may just accordingly.

Bake at 350° for @40 minutes or until lightly browned and crispy.

Navy Chief goes fishing

The rain had stopped and there was a big puddle in front of the bar just outside the American Legion Post. A rumpled old Navy Chief was standing near the edge with a fishing line in the puddle. A curious young Marine fighter pilot came over to him and asked what he was doing. "Fishing," the old Chief simply said. "Poor old chief," the Marine officer thought to himself and invited the old Navy Chief into the bar for a drink. As he felt he should start a conversation while they were sipping their spirits, the young jet pilot winked at another pilot and asked the Chief, "How many have you caught today?" "You're number 14," the old Chief answered, taking another sip from his double shot of 12-year-old Scotch, "2 Air Force, 3 Navy and 9 Marines."

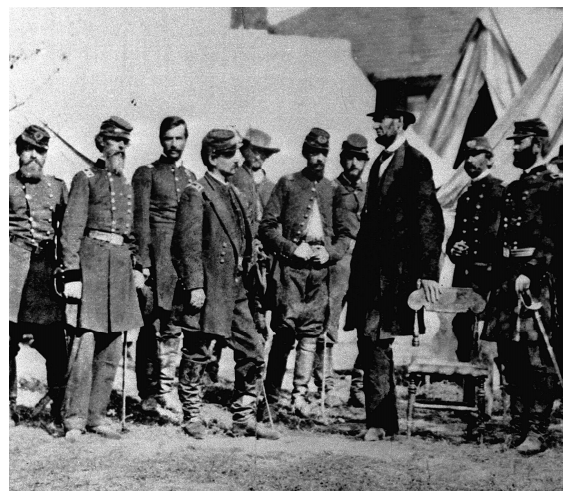


The 150-year-old mystery of how the Hunley submarine crew died has been solved



Crewmen aboard the first submarine to sink an enemy ship were killed by the pressure blast of their own torpedo, research has shown. The 39ft vessel, HL Hunley, took part in the American Civil War on the Confederate side. Its “engine” was a hand-cranked propeller and it carried a 135 pound copper keg of gunpowder at the end of a 16ft spar. On its first and last mission on February 17 1864, the cigar-shaped submarine sank the 1,200 ton Union warship USS Housatonic outside Charleston harbour, South Carolina.

While historical records show the steam-powered sloop sank in less than five minutes, the fate of the Hunley remained unknown until the sub was discovered on the sea bed 300 metres from the Housatonic’s resting place. When the boat was raised in 2000, the skeletons of its eight crewmen were found seated at their respective stations with no sign of physical injury or any evidence that they had attempted to escape. It has taken more than 150 years for US scientists to solve the mystery of how the men met their deaths. They were killed instantly when the force of the torpedo’s explosion sent a shock wave blast through the submarine that would have pulverised the crew members’ internal organs, especially the lungs and brain.



It might seem incredible to think submarines were in use during the American Civil War

Dr Rachel Lance from Duke University, who led the research published in the journal Public Library of Science ONE, said: "This is the characteristic trauma of blast victims; they call it 'blast lung'.

"You have an instant fatality that leaves no marks on the skeletal remains. Unfortunately, the soft tissues that would show us what happened have decomposed in the past hundred years."

The Hunley's "torpedo" was not self-propelled but carried on the end of a 16ft wooden pole that extended in front and slightly below its bow.

When the warhead was rammed into the enemy ship's hull beneath the waterline it exploded with enormous force. But the furthest any member of the Hunley's crew was from the blast was just 42ft.

The submariners' fate was revealed by blast tests carried out on a 6.5ft steel scale model of the vessel fitted with interior sensors.

Passing from the water to the air inside the Hunley's hull, the speed of the shock wave fell from about 1,500 to 340 metres per second, the study showed. This led to what Dr Lance called the "hot chocolate effect".

She said: "When you mix these speeds together in a frothy combination like the human lungs, or hot chocolate, it combines and it ends up making the energy go slower than it would in either one."



As a result, soft tissue damage lasted longer and was amplified. Delicate structures in the lungs would have been torn apart, causing instant death. Traumatic brain injuries are also likely to have occurred, said Dr Lance.

Her historical research showed that during training, the submarine stayed hundreds of yards away from test blasts that were significantly smaller than the explosion which sank the Housatonic.

"Blast travels really far underwater," she said. "If you're practising 200 yards away, and then you triple the size of your bomb and put it 16 feet away, you have to be at least aware that there's a possibility of injury."

Old people are smart

A young man in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around the store. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore, she kept staring at him. She finally overtook him in the checkout line and she turned to him and said "I hope that I haven't made you feel ill at ease, it's just that you look so much like my late son". "That's okay". he answered. "I know its silly" she said "but if you'd just call out, goodbye mum as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy". She then went through the checkout and as she was on her way out of the store, the man called out "Goodbye, mum". The little old lady waved and smiled back at him. Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his groceries. "That will be \$157.57" said the checkout chick. "Why so much?" he asked. "I only bought 3 items". The clerk relied "Yeah, but your mother said you'd be paying for her things, too!"

CORVINA BASE HOLDS ANNUAL PICNIC

Beautiful weather greeted almost 50 Corvina Base picnickers at Davis Creek State Park on August fifth. Hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken were served up by Chef John Hannah, and a great variety of side dishes were provided by Corvina Base wives. No one went away hungry!

Terry Bolen did his usual superb job of coordinating the event. Many thanks to the Sea Cadets Color Guard for presenting the Colors in great style!

The Base welcomed special guest John Potter, Anchor for Channel Two News in Reno. John was presented with an Orange Cap and Pins from the 2016 USSVI National Convention, which he covered for Channel Two. John continued his advocacy of Corvina Base by posting Picnic pictures and acknowledgement on his Face Book page, which has over 3,800 followers!

Great PR for the Base!

The Picnic concluded with a spirited raffle, which included some very nice donated items and libations. Congratulations to Bonnie Larson for winning the 50/50 Raffle!



Good time had by all!